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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0086
INFO RUEHZA/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0620
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Tuesday, 03 November 2009, 15:52
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PRETORIA 002245
SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 11/01/2019

TAGS PREL, PGOV, PHUM, ECON, ASEC, KHIV, SF, ZI

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S COURTESY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

MASHABANE

REF: PRETORIA 2167

Classified By: AMBASSADOR DONALD GIPS FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Ambassador's first official call with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane was warm

Positive Bilateral Agenda

12. (C) Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane was warm and receptive in the Ambassador's first official meeting.
13. (C) Mashabane noted that the Ambassador's confirmation speech showed that he and the USG shared South Africa's five key priorities set forth in the 2008 US-South Africa Joint Declaration.

14. (C) Mashabane said she was passionate about integration and de-racialization as tools to eradicate the legacies of apartheid in both rural and urban areas.
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who listens to and supports South Africans.

Health and HIV/AIDS - Extolling Cooperation, Noting Past Mistakes

15. (C) The Minister thanked the USG for its sustained support as a key partner in fighting HIV/AIDS under the PEPFAR program in South Africa, noting the USG's commitment to the fight against the disease.

Food Security and Agriculture - Women's Issues

16. (C) Mashabane identified food security and agriculture as key areas for cooperation. She said we would shortly receive a written response to her letter of 28 October.

17. (C) The Ambassador raised our desire to cooperate on women's issues and to target specifically violence against women, noting its linkages to HIV/AIDS.

Security

18. (C) The Ambassador thanked the Minister for the SAG's security support to the U.S. Mission since the mid-September threat and asked that it be maintained.

Zimbabwe

19. (C) The Minister expressed great frustration with President Mugabe, saying that "we cannot do quiet diplomacy forever" and calling him "the most dangerous man in Africa."
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plan. Mashabane said the current SADC Chair President Joseph Kabila was left cooling his heels in South Africa over the weekend when Mugabe at the SADC summit.

110. (C) Mashabane promised to follow-up with the Ambassador on next steps following discussions she would have very soon with President Zuma at the SADC summit.

111. (C) Mashabane raised concerns about Palestine, Israel, and the Goldstone Report. The Ambassador said the U.S. was committed to a two-state solution.

112. (C) COMMENT: The Ambassador's first official meeting with the South African Foreign Minister was particularly friendly and open, emblematic of the US-South Africa relationship.